

WorkFirst Local Planning Area Partnerships (LPAs)

➤ **What are LPAs?**

LPAs serve as forums for WorkFirst service providers to coordinate the development and delivery of services and activities that help WorkFirst families prepare for employment and go to work. There are currently 31 LPAs across the state with representatives from local and state agencies, community and technical colleges, nonprofit organizations, tribes, contractors, and other community partners serving those most in need.

➤ **What do LPA partnerships do?**

LPAs meet regularly to share information, discuss strategies for delivering services, look at local program performance, and resolve issues. They also develop plans to improve processes and programs that help WorkFirst parents go to work. Through the LPA network, local partners stay informed as to changing WorkFirst policies, programs, and priorities. LPAs also have the opportunity to develop promising practices and learn from each other.

➤ **Upcoming Initiatives**

LPAs will be updating their strategic plans in 2011 to maintain a collaborative delivery approach that leverages resources and partner strengths, seeks consistent and streamlined services, and addresses challenges for WorkFirst families as they move through the program to employment. This includes developing new initiatives and promising practices around community leveraging, the “full family” service approach, outreach to the business community, collaboration with other local partners, working with potential new partners, and filling the service gaps in life skills and soft skills training.

LPAs are also uniquely situated to provide a “feedback loop” to help the overall WorkFirst program evolve. The “loop” includes feedback on how parents are doing, what services are effective, and new and innovative approaches that the overall WorkFirst Program can initiate statewide to increase successful outcomes.